

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 8, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-147)

TO: Dorie Welch
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Grand Ronde Model Watershed Project - Catherine Creek/Swackhammer Fish Passage and Erosion Management

Project No: 1992-026-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):

- 1.1 Modeling the effects of river channelization.
- 1.2 Prohibit further channelization.
- 1.3 Restoration of channelized river and stream reaches.
- 1.4 Pre-implementation evaluation of proposed enhancements.
- 1.7 Install other habitat complexity structures.
- 1.8 Bank protection through vegetation management.
- 1.15 Fish passage enhancement - fishways.
- 2.1 Maintain healthy riparian communities.
- 4.23 Intake and return diversion screens.
- 4.25 Consolidate/replace irrigation diversion dams.

Location: Union, Union County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP).

Description of the Proposed Action: This project is a remedial action needed to correct fish passage, erosion and bedload aggradation problems not completely addressed or aggravated by the replacement of the old Swackhammer diversion structure in 1995 by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Program, BPA, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The structure does not meet current fish passage guidelines, has caused severe bank erosion, and does not facilitate diversion of water into the Swackhammer ditch. The project proposal is to retrofit the diversion structure, reinstall the fish screen, install a combination of grade control structures (cross vanes and J-hooks), revegetate streambanks, and reshape the irrigation ditch.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Lyle Kuchenbecker, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

A Biological Assessment was completed for the project and submitted to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries for formal consultation on April 30, 2004. Based on the BA, BPA determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle, and may adversely affect bull trout, Snake River spring chinook salmon, and Snake River steelhead. Determinations of no effect were made for Canada lynx, McFarlane's four o'clock, and Spalding's catchfly. Consultation on the bald eagle, bull trout, chinook salmon, and steelhead will be completed prior to initiation of construction on the project.

Jerry Galm of Archaeological and Historical Services completed a cultural resources survey in the area of this project prior to the initial construction in 1995 (Cultural Resources Investigations at the Bonneville Power Administration's Catherine Creek Project, Union County, Oregon, April, 1995). No cultural resources deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties were found. The area of construction for this project is the same. Letters have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Office and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation documenting the previous survey and asking concurrence from the SHPO that no further action is needed. Concurrence will be obtained prior to initiation of construction.

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program is obtaining an Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and an Oregon Department of State Lands instream work permit for this project and will not begin construction until those permits are received.

The project has been reviewed and approved by the GRMWP Technical Committee and Board of Directors. The Board of Directors representation includes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce and Umatilla Tribes, and the local government. Meetings of the Technical Committee and Board of Directors are open to the public and advertised in the local newspaper and on the radio. Individual projects, including this project, are discussed. Additionally this project will be input into the GRMWP database that is accessible to the public on the internet.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy Weintraub 6-9-04

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

DATE: 6-9-04

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:

Checklist

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Lyle Kuchenbecker, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project, 10901 Island Ave.,
LaGrande, OR 97850